

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL 5720 INTEGRITY DRIVE MILLINGTON TN 38055-0000

5720 PERS 00J6/20210111 December 24, 2020

Ms. Mary Schantag POW Network 102 Vixen Circle Unit C Branson, MO 65616

Dear Ms. Schantag:

SUBJECT: YOUR FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) REQUEST

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request in which you seek Navy Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) information pertaining to Brian Otis. This command received your request on December 24, 2020. Your FOIA request number is 2021-002252 and FOIA correspondence file number is 20210111.

A releasable copy of responsive OMPF information is enclosed. The redacted portions of the released documentation are exempt from disclosure under FOIA exemption 6 [5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)]. Release of such information would constitute clearly unwarranted invasion of the personal privacy of Brian Otis and other identified individuals.

I am the official responsible for the partial denial of your request. You have the right to an appeal. It must be received within 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Please provide a letter requesting an appeal, with a copy of your initial request and a copy of the letter of denial, in an envelope marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal." You are encouraged (though not required) to provide an explanation why you believe the redactions were inappropriate or our search was inadequate. Also, please provide a copy of your appeal letter to us at Bureau of Naval Personnel, PERS Code 00J6, 5720 Integrity Drive, Millington, TN 38055.

There are two ways to file an appeal—through FOIAonline or by mail.

1. Through FOIAonline. This will work only if you set up an account on FOIAonline before you make the request that you would like to appeal. To set up an account, go to FOIAonline (this is a website that will appear as the top

5720 PERS 00J6/20210111 December 24, 2020

hit if you search the internet for "FOIAonline"), click "Create Account" (a link located within the blue banner at the top in the upper right corner), enter your data into the field that subsequently appears, and click "Save" (at the bottom left of the screen). With your account thereby created, you will have the power to file an appeal on FOIAonline to any request you file on FOIAonline thereafter. To do so, locate your request (enter a keyword or the request tracking number in the "Search for" field on the "Search" tab), click on it, then the "Create Appeal" tab in the left-hand column. Complete the subsequent field, click "Save," and FOIAonline will submit your appeal.

2. By mail. Address your appeal to:

The Judge Advocate General (Code 14) 1322 Patterson Avenue SE, Suite 3000, Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374-5066

[Note: the preceding address is the default address. Alternatively, it may be sent to the Department of the Navy General Counsel if appropriate (the Office of the General Counsel generally handles issues outside of those of the uniformed service). That address is as follows:

Department of the Navy, Office of the General Counsel, 1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 5A532 Washington, DC 20350-1000]

If you have any questions, please contact me at david.german@navy.mil or (901) 874-3165. You may also contact the DON FOIA Public Liaison, Christopher Julka, at christopher.a.julka@navy.mil, (703)697-0031. In addition, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) provides a voluntary mediation process for resolving disputes between

5720 PERS 00J6/20210111 December 24 2020

persons making FOIA requests and the Department of the Navy (DON). For more information, go to https://www.archives.gov/ogis/about-ogis/contact-information.

Sincerely,

David P. German

D. P. GERMAN FOIA/PA Officer



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